

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-38 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, the title is amended as was done in the parent application.

Claims 1-19 are identical to allowed claims 1-19 of the parent application.

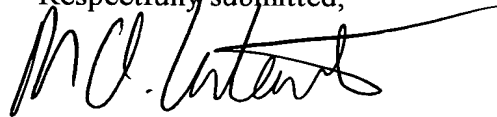
Claims 20-38 are similar to claims 1-19, except that the independent claims are modified.

With respect to claim 1, the clause "visible image data obtaining means" has been changed to recite that the visible image data is output "based on the detected visible component level of pixels other than the defective pixel or based on the corrected visible component level of the defective pixel." That is, "and" has been changed to "or" in claim 20 as compared to claim 1. Similar revisions were made to all independent claims. That is, independent claims 20, 26 and 31-33 are similar to original independent claims 1, 7 and 12-14, except that "and" has been changed to "or."

The Examiner is requested to consider the references identified in the Information Disclosure Statement filed herewith. These references are of record in the parent application.

Examination and allowance in due course are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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